



KÜLGAZDASÁGI ÉS KÜLÜGYMINISZTERIUM  
BIZTONSÁGPOLITIKAI ÉS NON-PROLIFERÁCIÓS FŐOSZTÁLY

Executive Secretary,  
Madame High Representative, Distinguished Ministers and Colleagues,

It is a great honour and pleasure for me to address this conference of such outstanding importance for global security. Following up on earlier attempts to limit or partially ban nuclear tests, twenty years ago **our States committed never to conduct nuclear tests of any kind, anywhere on Earth**. On 24 September 1996, the Depositary of the Treaty, then United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, formally opened the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty for signature. The United States, the other four nuclear weapon states, China, France, the United Kingdom and the Russian Federation, followed by another 66 States, signed the Treaty by the end of that same day.

Hungary has been committed to the objectives of the Treaty since the very beginning: My country was among the first ones to ratify it back in 1999. Besides, during eight years out of those twenty, the CTBTO was led by a Hungarian diplomat, Ambassador Tibor Tóth who had taken part actively already in the drafting process of the Treaty.

As we are all aware, **the entry into force of the Treaty still remains unfinished business**, with eight Annex II countries that have yet to formally endorse the treaty. However, I believe they share our view that embracing the Treaty will enhance their security, as well as their international standing.

Between 2013 and 2015, Hungary, together with Indonesia held the position of Article XIV Co-Coordinator. In that time period, **we were striving, jointly and individually, to reach out to States that have not yet signed or ratified the Treaty**.

For our part, Hungary actively **promoted the entry into force of the Treaty and its universalization, bilaterally as well as at various multilateral fora**. While doing so, we put particular emphasis on contacts with African countries. During our tenure, three countries, including two from the African continent, joined the CTBT community.

When our mandate expired, we felt **reassured that two countries truly dedicated to the objectives of the CTBT, Japan and Kazakhstan, took over**. Hungary remains engaged in promoting the comprehensive ban on nuclear tests, in line with our national commitment to nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

With signature by 183 States and ratification by 164 States as of today, **the CTBT has achieved nearly universal adherence. Nonetheless, only a Treaty in force will confine the chapter of nuclear testing to history books**.

Let me conclude by quoting Minister Szijjártó on this: *„In nearly twenty years, the CTBT has become an essential element of global security and the provider of a unique monitoring system. It is high time for the Treaty to achieve the one thing it hasn't achieved yet: to enter into force. In fact, it is only by doing so that the CTBT would meet its ultimate goal: to close the era of nuclear testing, once and for all.”*